FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 JULY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces "liberated" Mehran the night of 1 July, breaking a 45-day occupation of the Iranian city by Iraqi forces, IRNA announced. An Iraqi military spokesman acknowledged the fall of Mehran in a statement cited by Baghdad radio, adding that Iraqi forces have withdrawn to the international border. Announcing further details of the offensive, an Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio stated that Iranian forces have thus far killed or wounded 2,500 Iraqis, while IRNA cited reports that over 1,000 Iraqis have been taken prisoner. The agency said earlier that hundreds of tanks, APC's, vehicles, and light and heavy weapons were seized or destroyed during the attack, and disclosed that a radio station for broadcasting news of Iran's victory has started operations near Mehran, capable of covering a "vast" area inside Iraq. The Iranian Majlis speaker expressed the hope that Iranian forces will take advantage of the situation to strike fatal blows against the Iraqis, paving the way for their final defeat, IRNA also reported.

Israel

The High Court has ordered the state to show cause within 2 weeks why the police should not investigate the Shin Bet affair, Jerusalem radio reported 2 July, adding that this order is based on the assumption that the presidential pardon granted to the four Shin Bet men remains valid. The court also ordered the Shin Bet men to submit affidavits explaining why they appealed for pardons, and it will decide whether to invalidate the pardon or to hear more arguments on the issue after receiving the affidavits.

As for the question of an official inquiry into the Shin Bet affair, IDF radio disclosed that the Alignment Knesset faction has decided to demand the establishment of a judicial commission which will examine and interrogate the political echelon. In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he will abide by the government decision on establishing an inquiry, adding that if he does appear before a commission, the public will be "surprised" by his testimony and most of the Israeli press and media will "regret" what they are currently saying on the Shin Bet issue.

In a separate development, Jerusalem radio noted that the Israeli Embassy in Bonn denied any involvement in an alleged Israeli-Iranian arms deal, as reported by the FRG magazine *Stern*. The embassy said it had no connection with the Israeli citizen mentioned in *Stern*'s report, and security sources in Israel likewise stressed that the man has no connection with the Israeli defense establishment. The *Stern* article, which cited FRG police documents, alleged that the German authorities have uncovered arms dealings between Iran and a "representative" of the Israeli Government for the supply of ammunition and rifles, according to DPA.

Libya-Yemens

YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and PDRY Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas arrived in Tripoli 1 July for talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, JANA reported. Salih told the agency that the visit should be viewed as a natural extension of the growth and development of relations between the YAR and Libya, adding that he would also meet with Al-'Attas as part of efforts to achieve Yemeni unity. The YAR president arrived in Libya after a brief visit to Ethiopia, according to Addis Ababa radio.

For the PDRY's part, Al-'Attas stated that his visit indicates the PDRY's solidarity with the Libyan leadership, JANA reported, and he added that the talks with Al-Qadhdhafi will focus on ways of consolidating Arab solidarity, Arab and international developments, and PDRY-Libyan relations. He did not mention prospective talks with President Salih.

Al-Qadhdhafi subsequently opened the Yemeni "unionist" talks with a speech in which he urged both sides to take a "historic" decision and to end the "tragic" division of their country, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio noted.

Speaking on the same occasion, Salih said that the YAR is ready for unity with the South Yemenis "in any form," while Al-'Attas confirmed that the two parts of Yemen are "very eager" for unity, according to the radio, which noted that Al-Qadhdhafi, Salih, and Al-'Attas held a closed meeting afterward.

Kuwait

KUNA linked the government's resignation to its differences with the National Assembly over a range of issues including a recent "showdown" in which deputies demanded to question four ministers whom they accused of mismanaging public funds. Deputies also accused the government of providing inadequate protection for the oil installations that were set on fire 17 June.

As for Kuwait's oil policy, the oil and industry minister announced that Kuwait is willing to cut its output if other OPEC members are willing to do likewise, OPECNA reported, and he added that the differences among OPEC members have narrowed as a result of the conference in Brioni.

Iran

Commenting on the recent GCC Ministerial Council session held in Al-Ta'if, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the council's resolutions are issued under Iraqi pressure and are usually imposed by the minority upon the majority, Tehran radio reported.

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Gandhi Discusses West Bengal, Punjab Issues

BK011615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] The prime minister today assured West Bengal of all help for the progress of the state. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who had meetings with the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, industrialists and representatives of banks and trade unions in Calcutta, said he is prepared to come to the state with the concerned central ministers and clear and dispose of the problems of the state government on the spot.

During the meeting with Mr Basu, the prime minister said that the Center has not blocked any of the projects of the state government. The problems of Gurkhas in Darjeeling, clearance of West Bengal schemes, and nationalization of the jute industry came up for discussion. He ruled out nationalization of the jute industry saying no funds are available after finalizing the seventh plan allocation. He told a delegation of the state government that at this stage we cannot curtail our other development problems. He said nationalization is not the remedy, but added that the center is aware of the problem. He suggested remunerative prices to the jute growers and overcome the problems of marketing jute goods.

Mr Gandhi criticized the performance of the West Begal government and said that record shows that they are not encouraging. He alleged that the state government did not utilize fully the money allotted to it for the sixth plan.

In their meeting with Mr Gandhi, the industrialists of West Bengal said the power situation in the state was improving, but infrastructural facilities and communications system in Calcutta needed further improvement.

Our correspondent says that during today's visit to Calcutta, the prime minister addressed as many as 11 functions including a meeting of party workers. He told them of his determination to solve the Punjab problem. However complex it may be, he said, it has to be solved. He also spoke of preventing migration from Punjab and said law and order is a major problem in the state. A number of extremists have been arrested, but much more remains to be done. It is now clear who are behind the extremists and who are not, he said.

Inaugurating the permanent doordarshan [television] complex in South Calcutta, he warned the people that certain forces are trying to destabilize the country and weaken our unity and integrity. He said that doordarshan has tremendous responsibility in carrying the message of unity and integrity and can help remove superstition and prejudices.

Gandhi Defends Manufacture of Combat Aircraft

BK011259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] The government is considering to allow the private sector to involve itself in the manufacture of small aircraft. This was disclosed by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, while addressing the parliamentary consultative committee attached to the Defense Ministry in New Delhi. Strongly defending the project to develop a light combat aircraft, Mr Gandhi said there can be no justification to think that the country is not in a position to develop such an aircraft.

Mr Arun Singh, the minister of state for defense, refuted the allegation that the Air Force is not enthusiastic about the light combat aircraft project.

Continuing Reportage on Situation in Punjab State

7 More 'Terrorists' Surrender

BK020303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Seven more terrorists surrendered to the Border Security Forces in Dera Baba Nanak area of Gurdaspur District on Monday [30 June]. According to an official release issued in New Delhi yesterday, all of them were involved in smuggling of firearms from across the border.

Newspapers Strike To Protest Government Policy

BK011610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Newspaper establishments all over the country observed a day's protest closure today. The call for the closure was given by the Indian and Eastern Newspapers Society and the Indian-Language Newspapers Association in protest against what they called government's arbitrary policies toward newspapers. As a result of today's closure, most of the newspapers will not come out tomorrow.

Further Details

BK020450 Hong Kong AFP in English 0435 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] New Delhi, July 2 (AFP) — Indians went without newspapers Wednesday after owners suspended publication for a day in an unprecedented move to protest against a government-advised 15 percent salary increase for staff. An increase was arranged after journalists and other newspaper employees went on strike in April.

"In a move that was more political than fair and reasonable, the government granted a largesse to the employees that was a negation of the very economics of the newspapers," *Indian Express*, the largest chain of newspapers in the country, said in a front-page comment Tuesday. "The present condition of newspapers would dissuade any reasonable mind from casting any additional burden on them," the *Express* said.

The worst hit by the suspension of publication were the thousands of vendors who earn five to 10 rupees (about 40 to 80 cents) a day selling newspapers.

Meanwhile, a court in Bombay Tuesday admitted writ petitions challenging the government's notification to add 15 percent to

the basic salaries of news staff, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

The petitions were filed by the publishers of *The Times of India* and the managements of the two English-language news agencies, PTI and the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA.

The Times of India also protested in print against the newsprint allocation and pricing policies of the government.

"The attitude of the government in recent years has cast a shadow of doubt over the future of (newspaper) freedom," *The Times* said.

There are some 21,800 publications in India with a combined circulation of over 50 million. There are 1,400 daily newspapers in English and other languages with a combined circulation of more than 15 million a day in a country of 750 million people.

INDIAN EXPRESS Urges Better Quality in Exports

BK271407 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Jun 86 p 6

[Editorial: "More Than Just Prices"]

[Text] During the last 35 years India has overcome several economic difficulties. In some areas like agriculture, the achievements have been close to miraculous. Yet, there is one problem whose back has not been broken. The foreign exchange shortage, caused by sluggish exports rather than excessive imports, continues to dog the country. In consequence, economic policy tends to be a stop-go affair, depending to a goodly extent on the current status of, and prognostications for, foreign exchange reserves and earnings.

True, there have been times, as during the seventies, when exports of some items witnessed a sustained increase. Exports of engineering goods, in fact, showed such an impressive increase that many hoped that India had at last "arrived".

In the last five years, however, this hope has been belied and the growth rate of these goods has been rather disappointing. In fact, going down the list of goods that make up India's major exports, one finds that unless informed to the contrary, a stranger would conclude that India is a very minor industrial power, whereas this is far from being the case. In other words, just as the USSR, from its export basket looks like a pre-industrial nation — 80 percent of its export earnings come from exporting minerals — India too looks exclusively like a nation of jewellers, planters, weavers, and miners. Clearly, something is wrong.

The key to the mystery can be traced to the unwillingness of policy makers to yield ground to the changed structure of the world economy. Gone are the days when trade was only between industries and firms. Thanks to the growth of transnationals, something like a quarter of world trade is intra-industry and even intra-firm trade. This means that if India does not alter its policies suitably, it will continue to be a peripheral participant.

India has throughout sought to bypass this problem partly by trading with the Eastern bloc. While the value of this trade, measured in terms of orders for domestic industries has been immeasurable, the cost has been equally high when looked at in terms of technological backwardness.

The other problem is that the Government continues to act as though if it only makes Indian goods cheaper by means of various supports, subsidies and duty drawbacks, all will be well. That is, it treats the export problem mainly as one of price competitiveness. In fact, however, it is one of quality competitiveness as well because much of what the country produces is far below international specifications. It is to this problem that the Government must turn now instead of living in a make-believe world where sops are seen as solutions.

AFGHANISTAN

Rebels Crushed; Weapons Seized in Balkh Province

LD021132 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Quoting a source in the country's security forces, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that recently, as result of successful operations by the country's security forces in Char Kent subdistrict, Balkh Province, to rid the area of rebels, a number of them were crushed and eight captured.

[Number indistinct] surface-to-surface missiles, two DShK'S, a mortar, a number of light weapons with their ammunition, and a number of anti-state and propaganda documents were seized.

NEPAL

Reportage on Visit of Bangladesh President

Met by King, Prime Minister

BK010750 Hong Kong AFP in English 0723 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Katmandu, July 1 (AFP)— Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and a 19-member entourage arrived here Tuesday for a three-day state visit.

Lieutenant-General Ershad, accompanied by Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and other senior officials, was welcomed at the airport by King Birendra and Prime Minister Narich Man Singh Shrestha.

Lt.-Gen. Ershad is to hold preliminary talks Tuesday with King Birendra.

Mr Shrestha and Nepalese Foreign Minister Sailendra Kumar Upadhyaya were also scheduled to call on the Bangladesh president Tuesday at the Royal Palace, where he is staying, a Nepalese Foreign Ministry official said.

(In Dhaka, a senior official said the talks between Lt.-Gen. Ershad and Kind Birendra would cover bilateral relations and important regional and international issues of mutual interest.

(But most importantly, he said, the two leaders would discuss the future direction of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and its achievements since the forum was launched at a summit in Dhaka last December.)

Lt.-Gen. Ershad's visit to Nepal, his second since 1982, is part of a six-nation tour the Bangladesh leader planned as the current chairman of SAARC.4

He visited Bhutan in June and is scheduled to travel to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives later in July.

Further Details on Arrival

BK011445 Katmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Excerpt] Their majesties the king and queen have seen the president of Bangladesh, Lieutenent General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, and Begum Raushan Ershad at the Narayanhity Royal Palace today.

President of Bangladesh Lieutenent General Hussein Mohammad Ershad and Begum Raushan Ershad arrived in Katmandu from Dhaka this morning on board a special aircraft on a 3-day state visit. The president and Begum Ershad were heartily welcomed by their majesties the king and queen at the VIP lounge of the Tribhuvan International Airport. This is the first state visit of President Ershad to Nepal and reflects the full understanding existing between the two countries.

PAKISTAN

Prime Minister To Visit Turkey, FRG, United States

BK011055 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, leaves Islamabad on 10th of this month on a 12-day friendship tour of Turkey, Federal Republic of Germany, and the United States. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the visit will be the first extended tour since the election and the revival of the civilian polity in the country.

The purpose of the visit is to deepen mutual understanding with these countries all of which have a tradition of friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. The spokesman said there is no structured agenda for the talks which the prime minister will be having with the leaders of these countries. However, international issues of mutual interest will come up for discussion and Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo will utilize the opportunity to develop bilateral relations further.

Our representative understands that a fully (?packed) program has been prepared which includes the prime minister's meetings with the heads and leaders of governments, besides meeting legislators, influential personalities, editors, and holding press conferences.

Delhi: Assailants of Indian Diplomat Granted Bail

BK020323 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] The six Canada-based terrorists arrested in connection with the assault on an Indian diplomat in Pakistan were granted bail by a local magistrate in Lahore yesterday. The six were released on bail of 10,000 rupees each. It may be recalled that they had allegedly attacked officials of the Indian Embassy near Gurdwara Dera Saheb in Lahore last month.

SRI LANKA

Colombo Confirms Jayewardene Visit to USSR Postponed

BK271207 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Jun 86

[Text] The official visit of President J.R. Jayewardene to the Soviet Union has been postponed. A new date for the scheduled visit will be announced after mutual consultation.

33 'Terrorists' Killed, 1 Captured in Naval Encounter

BK011115 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Thirty-three terrorists were killed and one captured during a gunbattle with the Sri Lankan Navy on the high seas of Talaimannar in northwestern Sri Lanka yesterday.

Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the 34 terrorists were returning to Sri Lanka by boat after training in India. The Sri Lanka Navy destroyed the boat. It was also revealed that the terrorists belonged to the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization groups. The Navy recovered documents, diaries, calendars, posters, and notices which were in the boat.

Reportage on Mehran Operation, Other Clashes

'Considerable' Enemy Losses

LD011711 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] According to a report of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday the combatants of Islam, in returning enemy fire, pounded its positions, fortifications, and logistical routes along the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam and opened heavy artillery fire on oil installations of Banmil in Iraq and inflicted some damage on these installations. Thanks to the long-range defensive fire of our forces on the country's northwestern operational sector, the enemy's supply routes, fortifications, and heavy batteries were pounded and the enemy suffered considerable losses and casualties.

On the southern front, the fire exchange was more intense in the Chananeh and Majnun Islands sectors and the victorious forces of Islam, by dispatching patrol groups and by opening intense fire on the enemy's supply columns and active units, pinned down their troops and inflicted some losses and damage on them.

Our Gendarmerie warriors, in the course of their operations yesterday, began heavy artillery fire and disrupted the engineering activities of the enemy. In the Bayat and Zobeydah sector they destroyed several weapon emplacements, one mortar launcher, several light and heavy vehicles, a large quantity of the enemy's ammunition, and killed or wounded more than five enemy troops.

Yesterday, the city of Abadan was under sporadic artillery fire of the aggressive enemy. On 30 June, the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the course of their sea patrol missions and control of the Hormuz Strait, intercepted eight merchant ships and foreign oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, but as they were not carrying any goods bound for Iraq, they were allowed to resume their voyage.

Communique on 'Karbala'-1' Operation

LD011759 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the combined operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in its second [as heard] communique, announced: Continuing their victorious epics, the Islamic combatants, last night carried out triumphant operations codenamed "Karbala'-1" in the Mehran area, relying on God's assistance during the first moments of these operations, while crossing numerous obstacles, they succeeded in inflicting heavy losses on the surprised forces of the Iraqi Army and in raising aloft the glorious banner of Islam.

During these operations the Iraqi Army's 443d Infantry Brigade of the 17th Division, and the 705th Infantry Brigade were destroyed, while the 70th Armored Brigade and the 1st Special Commando Brigade of the Saddam regime, including three battalions commanded by this regime, were 50 percent destroyed. Islam's combatants, while occupying the command headquarters of the demolished 443d Iraqi Army Infantry Brigade, succeeded in completely destroying the enemy's 705th Infantry Brigade. [as heard]

Islam's combatants, while killing more than 750 enemy troops, wounded hundreds of others. During these operations large numbers of Iraqi Army troops were also captured by the monotheistic troops. More than 210 of these have been moved to the rear. Among the Iraqi POW's can be seen ten Iraqi Army officers and NCO's, including Staff Colonel Sa'id 'Abd al-Hamid from Al-Sulaymaniyah, commanding officer of the 3d Battalion of the 705th Iraqi Army Infantry Brigade, together with other forces of the 705th Brigade destroyed in the course of today's victorious battle.

Among the Iraqis killed could be seen the bodies of several senior Iraqi commanders, including Staff Colonel Nuri Muhammad 'Abbas from Baghdad, commanding officer of the Iraqi Army 705th Infantry Brigade, all the commanders of the 1st and 2d Battalions of that brigade, and commandos of the destroyed Iraqi battalions in the operational theater.

Islam's God-seeking troops, while destroying more than 30 tanks and APC's, 2 large ammunition dumps, tens of anti-aircraft batteries and hundreds of enemy vehicles, have so far succeeded in capturing intact more than 100 tanks and APC's, 15 anti-aircraft batteries, and 100 vehicles, including several transport and combat engineering vehicles of the waning forces of Saddam.

By opening heavy, effective and accurate artillery fire on enemy positions, Islam's powerful combatants have already denied any movement to the forces of the Iraqi 'Aflaqi regime and have inflicted heavy casualties on them.

Iraqi POW's on Mehran Operation

LD020932 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Ilam, July 2, IRNA — One of the commanders of the Iraqi battered Brigade of 705 of the 28th Army, captured in Mehran, central sector of war front, Tuesday, in a message urged all the Iraqi military personnel to lay down their arms and surrender to Iran.

Colonel Sa'id 'Abd al-Hamid Habib al-Marzah, from Samarra', surrendered to the Islamic forces of Iran after resisting for four hours when the Iranian offensive 'Karbala-one' was launched in Mehran operational theater Monday night.

He said in his message Wednesday morning that all the propaganda tirade of the Iraqi regime alleging Iran of torturing Iraqi POW's are mere lies. He added that ever since his captivity he is being well taken care of and is impressed by the kind and humanitarian treatment of the Islamic combatants.

The Iraqi colonel said that his brigade could only put up a resistance for four hours and the battered Iraqi forces are no longer able to resist.

Meanwhile an Iraqi lieutenant, 'Ali Oudeh Anif, captured in Mehran, Tuesday, said that all military plans drawn by Egyptian, Jordanian and Iraqi military experts and those of Europe and the U.S. to recapture the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw, have failed.

Lieutenant Anif captured during the offensive 'Karbala-one', further told IRNA in Mehran operational theater, that all personnel of the Brigade 705 of the 28th Army, including himself, were taken in total surprise by the Iranian offensive. When the offensive was launched, he added, the personnel were asleep who suddenly found themselves surrounded by the Islamic forces of Iran.

Another POW, Captain Khalil Faruq, also personnel of the engineering battalion of the 28th Army, said that the Iraqi military personnel were suffering from low morale and added that units from the armed forces of the Arab countries were fighting alongside the Iraqi forces. One such unit, he added, is the one from the North Yemeni Army stationed in Khanaqin.

On status of the Iraqi regime and its repressive measures, he said that the Baghdad regime was fearful of the people's revolt and, therefore, it has been rounding up all the dissidents. Iraqi prisons, he told IRNA, are filled with the opponents of the Baghdad regime.

Another Iraqi POW refuted the Iraqi claims trying to draw a parallel between the strategic importance of the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw and the Iranian border town of Mehran. He said that from a military point of view the two cities are not comparable. From the early days of the war, he added, the Iraqi forces were stationed in heights overlooking the Iranian border city of Mehran and getting stationed in the plains of the city was not a great accomplishment. On the contrary, crossing over the Arvand River and liberation of the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw called for great skill and is a new tactic unprecedented in history of world wars.

On the Iranian thrust into the Iraqi positions in Mehran area, the POW said that in a short period of time the Islamic forces of Iran destroyed all the Iraqi fortifications and wiped out the Iraqi forces.

Iraqi Positions Bombed

LD020744 Tehran IRNA in English 0739 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — Iranian fighter-bombers hit positions of Iraqi troops in Mehran operational theatre, in central war front, at 0800 and 0845 hours local time (0430 and 0515 hours GMT) Wednesday. A joint staff communique released here, said that in these attacks considerable casualties and losses were inflicted upon the enemy troops.

Mehran 'Liberated' 1 Jul

LD020833 Tehran IRNA in English 0813 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Mehran, Ilam Prov., July 2, IRNA — The border city of Mehran in the central sector of the war fronts 160 kms east of Baghdad was liberated Tuesday night during the second and third stages of the offensive 'Karbala'-1', launched Monday night.

The liberation of the city came after its 45-day-long occupation. Hundreds of Iraqi forces are reported killed or wounded during the heavy assault of the Islamic troops on Tuesday night and many others have been captured or fled the scene.

Hundreds of tanks, personnel carriers, vehicles, light and heavy munitions were destroyed or seized in the course of the offensive.

According to military commanders, the enemy despite its heavy fortifications and troop build-up in Mehran area was unable to resist the Islamic combatants of Iran.

Two Iraqi Brigades Destroyed

LD021030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0925 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention: According to reports from Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the combatants of Islam in continuation of the "Karbala'-1" operation, continuing their clashes with the Zionist enemy, advanced toward Mehran and liberated Heights 254, 200, 248, and 214.

According to the latest report, the number of Iraqi POW's has reached 400, and 200 enemy tanks and APC's have been destroyed by anti-armor units of the forces of Islam on one of the operational axes.

During the second phase of the "Karbala'-1" operation, the Iraqi 1st Special Commando and 70th Armored Brigades, which had received 50 percent damage during the first phase of the operation, were completely destroyed this morning.

Their personnel were killed, wounded, or captured.

Fighting in Mehran Suburbs

LD021036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1005 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] "Those who are assisted by Allah, cannot be defeated." [Koranic verse] O you, the brave nation of Islam, O you, the zealous and combative nation, your devoted sons, these marchers of Husayn's Karbala', on the second phase of the victorious "Karbala-1" operations created glorious epics and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy last night and this morning.

On the basis of the latest report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the forces of Islam are currently engaged in an intense clash in the suburbs of Mehran and have killed a large number of enemy troops. They also have destroyed hundreds of

enemy tanks, personnel carriers, and vehicles, and set them ablaze. Smoke is visible around the city of Mehran from the burning enemy arms and equipment.

During this clash, the combatants of Islam also succeeded in totally wiping out the disintegrating Iraqi Armed Forces' 66th Commando Brigade, which had been surrounded by the Karbala' marchers, and all its personnel were either killed, wounded, or captured.

5 Villages Liberated

LD021043 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — Iraq's 66th Commando Brigade is under seige on the edge of the city of Mehran, a military communique said here Wednesday.

After a heavy battle that caused high casualties for the Iraqi troops, Iran's Muslim combatants moved on the commando brigade and brought it under seige.

In Baghdad a military spokesman acknowledged that Iraqi forces had withdrawn in the face of the Iranian offensive but failed to comment on the remaining Iraqi forces in the area.

The number of villages liberated by Iranian combatants rose to five with the capturing of the villages of Emam Hasan, Qaleh Kohneh, and Bahim, the communique also said.

War started in September 1980 when Iraq invaded parts of Iran with the hope of expanding its coastline with the open sea and damaging the new government in Tehran.

1,[illegible] Iraqi Prisoners Taken

LD021058 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Mehran, July 2, IRNA — The number of Iraqi prisoners of war moved behind the front lines has exceeded a thousand, according to local reports here Wednesday.

They also said that Iraqi Military Command had brought a fresh commando brigade to the battle scene after its withdrawal from Mehran but the commandos suffered heavily before they could take military formation.

Last night Tehran television showed films of fighting in Mehran, a flat border area 160 kms southeast of Baghdad, twice captured in the nearly six-year-old war.

After Mehran fell into Iraqi hands 17 May, rulers of Baghdad said they were prepared to exchange the occupied town for the southern Iraqi Faw Peninsula, held by Iran since 9 February.

Iraq lost most of its coast with the open sea when Iranian Muslim combatants crossed the Arvand River and stormed their positions in Al-Faw capturing several hundred kilometers of land.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ Communique

LD021124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Communique No 3 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] The mighty combatants of Islam, in continuation of the victorious "Karbala-1" operation, which is in progress in the Mehran area with the holy codename of Ya 'Abd al-Fadl al-'Abbas [son of 'Ali and a brother of Hasan and Husayn -- Shi'ite imams], in the second phase of these operations, achieved remarkable victories last night for the heroic and zealous nation of Islamic Iran. The warriors of the army of monotheism, in the course of these successful operations, after liberating Heights 265, 254, 200, 244, 248, 213, 249, and 225 and the hills of Rahmani and Tangeh and the Abziadi post and heights and several villages and townships named Mansurabad, Hormozabad, Behruzan, Emam Hasan, and Qaleh Kohneh, advanced toward the city of Mehran and in the course of a heroic battle, created a remarkable epic by cleansing fully that city and its environs from the filth of the Zionist forces and captured positions in these regions.

During these victorious operations, the forces of the defeated enemy suffered heavy losses and casualties and a large part of their arms and military equipment and armored vehicles were either destroyed or captured intact by the combatants of Islam, a detailed list of which will be brought to the attention of our heroic and zealous nation later.

Our forces completely wiped out a commando brigade, the 70th Armored Brigade of Iraq, and the enemy's 66th Commando Brigade. A large number of troops of these brigades were either killed, wounded, or captured and the remnants of the enemy's crushed forces fled the arena.

Since the start of the "Karbala'-1" operations, the mighty warriors of Islam have captured 508 enemy troops and have taken them behind the battlelines. Another 800 troops were killed or wounded during last night's operations, bringing to more than 2,500 the number of enemy dead and wounded. The powerful combatants of Islam are currently busy with mopping up operations in the liberated city of Mehran and are fully repulsing the enemy from the region. They also are consolidating their newly captured positions.

[Signed] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the Center for Combined Operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Majlis Speaker Previews 'Final Defeat' of Iraq

LD020909 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — Iran's Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday referred to the recent thrust of the Muslim forces of Iran in Mehran area

and said that these blows would pave the way for the final defeat of the Baghdad regime.

Speaking at Wednesday morning's Majlis session, Rafsanjani who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council, said that the Islamic combatants of Iran had embarked on an offensive which would force Iraq to repent its "suicide policy".

Further commenting on the recent offensive, launched in central sector of the war fronts Monday night, code-named 'Karbala-one' the Majlis speaker said the Iraqis have come to their graveyards in Mehran and would either be killed or captured by the Iranian forces.

He said that the latest victories are gained through cooperation and devotion of the personnel of the army, Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Basij (mobilization) forces and Jihad volunteers.

Following blows dealt on the Iraqi forces by the Islamic forces of Iran in liberation of the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw, he added, the humiliated Iraqi forces embarked on a series of "suicidal measures".

"God willing, our forces will take advantage of the situation and will strike fatal blows on the battered Iraqi army thus paving the way for their final defeat," the Majlis speaker said.

Khamene'i, Naval Commander Discuss Gulf Security

LD012227 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text]Tehran, July 1, IRNA — Iran's navy commander, Captain Mohammad-Hoseyn Malekzadegan, in a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday announced the full readiness of naval combat units for patrol, reconnaissance, and inspection missions. The Navy commander also informed the president of the complete readiness of the naval units for active presence in the Persian Gulf and the safeguarding of the Islamic homeland.

A report of the performance of the Navy in the past year including the training of personnel were given to the president. Another report on the projects of the Navy in checking enemy missile activities in the Persian Gulf, and on activities of naval factories were handed over to the president.

President Khamene'i, who heads the Supreme Defence Council, stressed the need for making the naval forces more active in reaching self-sufficiency and making full use of the force's training and educational facilities. He also praised the performance of the Navy during the past year.

Commentary on New Military Operation, Iraqi Tactics

LD011411 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Text] As you heard in the news, the combatants of Islam dealt heavy blows to the Zionist enemy in the course of their attacks last night. This operation marks the start of a new round of operations by the forces of Islam and shows the Islamic Republic's success in its capabilities, choice of targets and its power to strike at selected targets all along the battle fronts. This most recent operation took place under circumstances when the Ba'thist enemy -- considering the possibility of a new operation and following Iran's successful missile attack on the Kirkuk oil installations last Friday -- began a propaganda campaign to make use of these attacks, claimed that Iran had attacked residential areas in its recent missile attack, and threatened to start war in the cities again. This was at a time when the War Information Headquarters, a few hours after Iran's long-range missiles hit the sensitive oil installations in Kirkuk, announced the precise coordinates of locations hit by the missiles and asked the United Nations to send a delegation to the said installations situated 35 km outside Kirkuk in order to verify the claims made by Iran and to reject the false claims made by Iraq.

Also, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran clearly asked the Iraqi regime to send a group of foreign correspondents to the area in order to clarify the matter. But, unfortunately, the Iraqi regime evaded these questions and, without naming even one person killed or wounded in the course of Iran's missile attack, continued to voice their baseless claims.

In a letter to the United Nations, Iraq once again put forward the unsuccessful tactic of taking the war into cities. Now, last night's operation by the combatants of Islam has once again proved that resorting to such tactics merely shows the weakness of Iraqi forces in confronting the combatants of Islam. In the opinion of Baghdad's incapable theoriticians, attacking residential areas is a deterrent used by the Iraqi regime when it feels a serious threat on the fronts in order to divert the attention of responsible officials and to stop Iran's attacks.

But, Saddam's experiences during the past few years should show that such tactics, which reached a climax last year, are always doomed to failure. Contrary to what the Saddam regime imagined and expected, such tactics strengthen the determination of our forces to restore their rights on the fronts and deal repeated blows to the enemy.

Considering the all-round fight which our heroic people have begun against the plots hatched by arrogant powers, especially in connection with economic issues in the country, it is hoped that by relying on Almighty God and by sending more courageous forces to the battle fronts, victorious operations, similar to the one carried out last night, will be repeated on other fronts and the combatants of Islam will bring the war — being the fundamental axis for the future progress of the country — to a successful end in the interest of Islam and Muslims.

Foreign Ministry: GCC Decisions Influenced by Iraq

GF020732 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has commented on the statement issued by the foreign ministers of the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region [the GCC Ministerial Council] which was held recently in Al-Ta'if. He said that resolutions by

conferences of the Arab foreign ministers' council are issued under pressure from the Iraqi regime and are usually imposed by the minority members of the council on the majority members. He added that these countries discuss peace and their attempts to end the war but do not halt their aid to Iraq.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized Iran's constant position which calls for the need to punish the aggressor and reemphasized the fact that if financial aid, food supplies, and information provided by some of these countries to Iraq were stopped, then the war would end with the collpase of the aggressive Saddamist regime, the main cause of tension in the region.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman then commented on freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf, saying that Iraq was the first to attack tankers and commercial ships and that it is Iraq that continues to jeopardize navigation in the Persian Gulf.

The spokesman added that if the Iraqi regime ends these attacks or if the region's countries seriously and resolutely confront the policy of tension which is adopted by the Saddamist regime in the Persian Gulf, then security will prevail in this region.

The spokesman stressed the policy adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran which is based on good-neighborly relations and reciprocity in dealings with the region's countries.

He stressed that the security of the region is the responsibility of the region's countries and should be preserved in a full and comprehensive way.

Further Details

LD012029 Tehran IRNA in English 1913 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA — A spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry said here Tuesday that the Islamic Republic is relentlessly determined to stamp out the Baghdad regime "which is the prime agent responsible for turmoil in the region."

The spokesman who was commenting on the Monday resolution of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council said ironically and despite their avowed concern for peace between Iran and Iraq the Arab members of the Council still continue to fuel the fire of war by giving liberal aid to the Iraqi Government.

He said once the member countries of the Council discontinue their aid to Baghdad they shall then have brought the Iraq-Iran war to its end.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman refuted alleged attacks by Iran against neutral shipping in the Persian Gulf reminding that once the countries of the region should choose to confront Iraq's adventurism head on they shall then have assured peace and stability in the region.

The spokesman said a "partial peace and stability will never be accepted by the Islamic Republic" adding that the job of maintaining the security of the Persian Gulf is solely the business of the regional countries.

Aqazadeh Urges Reduction in OPEC Production Ceiling

LD012320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, who went to Brioni, Yugoslavia, at the head of a delegation representing our country at the 78th OPEC oil ministers conference, returned to Tehran last night.

According to a report by a Central News Unit correspondent, since according to the OPEC articles of association a unanimous vote is required for OPEC decisions to become official, the session of the oil ministers of the 13 member-countries that was held 25-30 June in Yugoslavia did not reach a definite decision regarding the OPEC production ceiling, country quotas, or the official price of oil.

After returning to Tehran, Aqazadeh said in an interview with our correspondent: The OPEC oil ministers interrupted their talks at the 78th OPEC session so that they could consult their countries' high-ranking officials about the issues raised at the conference. After consulting high-ranking Iranian officials, our delegation will take part in an extraordinary session of OPEC oil ministers in 6 [as heard] weeks' time, on 28 July.

The report adds that according to the statement issued at the end of the 78th OPEC session in Yugoslavia, most member-countries agreed on an OPEC ceiling of 17.6 million barrels for the third and fourth quarter of this year and oil prices of $17-19 dollars per barrel. However, a number of member-countries — namely, Iran, Algeria, Libya, and Gabon — did not agree to this. These latter countries seek a reduction in the OPEC production ceiling. This would lay the groundwork for returning the price of oil to $28 per barrel.

Commentary Criticizes OPEC Decisions

GF020502 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The decisions taken by the Brioni conference were announced yesterday. Ten OPEC-member countries voted to limit the oil production ceiling to 17.6 million bpd till the end of this year, on the condition that the price for the barrel rises by $5 to a new level ranging from $17-$19. The Islamic Republic, along with Libya and Algeria, opposed this. Earlier, these three countries put forth a practical proposal which would raise oil prices to the previous level of $28 per barrel, provided that production remains in the area of 15 million barrels.

Through simple arithmetic we can estimate the fundamental differences between the two proposals — the Saudi and the Iranian proposals. If a barrel of oil is sold at a maximum price of $19, the net daily revenues of all OPEC members would be $334.4 million. This is according to the plan reached in the OPEC conference.

However, the proposal submitted by the Islamic Republic would result in $420 million in oil revenues for all OPEC members per

day -- a difference of $85.6 million per day. In addition to its losses in financial revenues, OPEC also would lose 2.6 million barrels per day.

A review of these figures makes us understand the unjust stands which have been adopted by some oil-producing countries toward their people and toward all oil producers. We ask: Why do these countries sacrifice all this money from the pockets of their people in favor of the monopolizing arrogant companies and countries? What do these countries reap from this policy?

This question reveals the secret which treacherous countries have been hiding during the current oil crisis: they submit to the blackmail of arrogance, where the forces of arrogance make them adopt such stands in return for their deceptive pledges to protect them or to agree to provide them with weapons which they think necessary for their protection. In fact, these countries only serve the imperialists' interests and perpetuate their influence in the region. This increases the threats posed to these regimes by their people who refuse to be subservient to unjust imperialist influence.

Countries hostile to arrogance — particularly Iran — are the first target of these plots. Iran is waging a [words indistinct] defensive war. It is determined to follow an independent policy without bowing to the will of imperialism. This will was represented by Saudi Arabia's proposal.

Foiling the plot can only be achieved by confronting it and not just by weathering the storm, regardless of its strength and severity.

Voice of Liberation Reports Baluchi Attack on Guards

GF301730 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Last Thursday [26 June] 13 Revolution Guards were killed in a clash along Konarak road in Baluchestan. These Revolution Guards belonged to the Central Islamic Revolutionary Committee in Zahedan and were pursuing a group of Baluchi youths who were part of a recently formed organization of Baluchi youths along the border. The members of this Baluchi organization have killed 83 Revolution Guard members, clerics, and persons attached to the regime since Esfand [beginning 20 February] in armed clashes in various parts of Sistan va Baluchestan.

Opposition Paper on 'State of Emergency' in Tehran

GF301324 London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Jun 86 p 1

[Text] Tehran — *Keyhan* news service — A state of emergency has been declared in Tehran and in most cities in the northern part of the country. "Night patrols" once again are being conducted in Tehran. As soon as it gets dark, all cars are stopped and the identities of occupants and deeds of ownership of the cars are checked.

Night patrols, which were introduced in Tehran and several other cities soon after the advent of the revolution, were discontinued several years ago and it was announced that the night patrol units had been dispatched to the "battlefronts". However, these patrols have again started their nightly rounds due to the regime's concern and fear over the people's opposition and demonstrations.

News reaching us this week from cities in the northern part of the country indicate that large parties of guards and committee officials have been deputized to patrol the cities and highways and to keep an eye on the movement of the general public in various northern cities, particularly in the coastal cities. According to informed sources, martial law and a state of emergency has been imposed in the northern cities although no official declaration has been issued.

It seems this has been done due to the clashes that have taken place between guards, committee officials, and various patrols on the one side, and opponents of the regime, particularly the Mojahedin, on the other.

Several acts of terrorism occurred in the northern cities during the past week in which some guards were killed. Friday imams of those cities have been instructed not to leave their homes. Friday prayers have all but been abandoned and those who do take part in these prayers are mostly members of the committees and their families. The mosques where these prayers are held are being guarded by armed men and the guards.

During the past 2 weeks a large number of secret messages and pamphlets have been distributed among the people during the night and some of them are said to be from the clergy. A number of groups have so far been arrested on charges of circulating these secret letters.

Mojahed Radio Urges Soldiers To Join Opposition

JN301424 Baghdad INA in English 1346 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Baghdad, June 30, INA — A statement broadcast by Mojahed Radio today called upon Iranian military to join the Iranian opposition movement for the sake of establishing peace and freedom.

The radio, organ of Mojahedin-e Khalq Iranian opposition organization, urged in a broadcast monitored here today Iranian military to extend all assistance possible to Mojahedin-e Khalq's supporters willing to cross the border to join the Iranian opposition movement.

The radio added that while the Iranian peoples were rejecting the war, Khomeyni insisted on unleashing it to cover up the deteriorating domestic situation in Iran.

The radio mentioned that after the arrival of leader of the Iranian opposition movement, Mas'ud Rajavi, in Iraq and the meeting of peace, the Iranian peoples in general and the military in particular should shoulder new responsibilities for the sake of overthrowing the Iranian regime.

The radio assured Iranian military, who would join Iranian opposition movement, that they were welcomed to join the Iranian resistance.

Mujahidin 'Defeat' DRA Forces in Baghlan Province
LD301846 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Thanks to anti-aircraft fire from the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries yesterday, a helicopter belonging to the Kabul regime was downed in the Shinwar region of Nangarhar Province and the pilot was killed.

The reports received indicate that 10 days ago the communist forces attacked a headquarters of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries in Baghlan Province but they were confronted by strong resistance from the Muslim revolutionaries.

The reports add that after the defeat of the communist forces in these operations, several helicopter gunships intensely bombed the residential areas of the region, martyring or wounding more than 200 defenseless inhabitants of the region and destroying dozens of houses.